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CSTC - DTR meeting re: OTR BULLETIN, Content and Distribution  
0900 - Monday - 22 October 1956

Reference: Weekly Activity Report # 41, from Chief, PP/S to  
DTR, dtd. 12 Oct. 56, item V.3. (attached)

The following observations are made in respect to the  
referenced item:

1. First paragraph:

Point: [redacted], acting chairman, CSTC, asks  
that the entire content, or portions, of each issue of the  
Bulletin be "coordinated" with the CSTC, prior to publication  
each month.

Counter-point: "Coordinated", in this instance, means  
"censored". Censorship is (a) unnecessary and (b) unwise:

a. Unnecessary, because it is the DTR's policy that  
his DD/P-experienced staff officer on the Plans and Policy Staff/OTR  
and his Security Officer/OTR be consulted during preparation of each  
issue of the Bulletin, particularly in respect to the periodically  
published Clandestine Services edition; in addition, all copy is  
approved for publication first by the Chief, PP/S and finally by  
the Director of Training, personally.

b. Unwise, because responsibility for publication of the  
Bulletin rests with the DTR who, under provisions of [redacted]  
is responsible to the DCI for fulfilling the CIA training mission.  
Communication to all components and all personnel of the Agency is  
a fundamental authority necessary to the execution of this respon-  
sibility. It is an authority resting exclusively within the province  
granted the Director of Training.

Further, the tight processing-production schedule gov-  
erning the publication militates against such a time-consuming  
and content-changing "coordination" arrangement; it would be  
patently impracticable.

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG.

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Counter-point: The OTR BULLETIN is the monthly supplement to the OTR CATALOG, in addition to its other informational functions. Content pertaining to operations training per se is published only in the special Clandestine Services edition, exclusively distributed to DD/P personnel and, for information, to a handful of non-DD/P top Agency executives; these executives are holders, also, of the special Clandestine Services edition of the OTR CATALOG.

The two course listing sheets in question were published in the October 1956 Clandestine Services edition of the Bulletin. At the top of each was its correct cross-reference to its place in the current OTR CATALOG, CS edition. Following distribution of the Bulletin, for information, to all DD/P personnel through the line-level supervisor network, the course listing sheets were to be stripped out and placed in their correct place in the Catalog held by each supervisor.

Other course listings, of precisely the same nature and published for the same purpose, appeared in the September CS edition of the Bulletin: Counterespionage Operations, course O-4; Anti-Communist Operations, course O-6; Information Reporting, Reports, and Requirements, course O-24. These have not been questioned.

The Director of Training, at the time policy determination was made concerning distribution of the OTR CATALOG and the OTR BULLETIN, directed that the suggestions of the Clandestine Services Training Committee be acceded to, with the understanding that the CSTC proposal of absolute, local-control distribution carried with it guarantees both of secure dissemination within DD/P and of distribution to all DD/P personnel. Thus, supervisors and their personnel could informedly approach training problems relating to job functions, Career Service planning, and other matters.

The DTR, therefore, looks to the CSTC for positive assurance that the Agency training mission is being advanced within DD/P, and that all personnel of that component have ready, regular access to both the OTR CATALOG and OTR BULLETIN.

Obviously, the course listing sheets in question are but a part of the information necessary to DD/P supervisors and their personnel in meeting their training interests and responsibilities.

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3. Paragraph b.

Point: The announcement of noon-time showings of foreign language films of 60-70 minutes duration encouraged too many people to be away from their desks without permission of their supervisors.

Counter-point: While the Director of Training considers it an insult to the supervisors of DD/P to even suggest in print that they are unskilled in the principles of Basic Supervision, course B-7, and Basic Management, course B-8, he has directed that a line be added to the announcements concerning the noon-time movie schedule, the special lecture series, etc., to the following effect: "You will, of course, wish to arrange with your supervisor for authorization to attend those films which require time in excess of your lunch hour."

No complaint of this nature has been voiced by the Special Support Assistants for Training, DD/I or DD/S.

The Editor of the Bulletin has been directed to continue adding the line quoted until it becomes apparent that such support is no longer considered necessary by the supervisors of DD/P.

4. Paragraph d.

Point: The article inviting Agency personnel to try out for parts in OTR training films failed to mention that CS personnel, for cover reasons, might not be permitted to participate.

Counter-point: The premise underlying this, and comparable items, is that individual employees are intelligent and responsible, and consult their supervisors in regard to such matters as a matter of course. Should an individual fail to measure up to these qualifications, however, the CSTC may be assured that the Chief, Film Branch/OTR specifically refers to the factor of operational compromise each time a potential participant is interviewed.

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5. Paragraph d.

Point: Publication of the list of lectures at the National War College encouraged CS personnel (GS-14's and above) to absent themselves from duty without permission.

Counter-point: As in the case of the noon-time movie schedule, the Editor of the Bulletin has been directed to add a line concerning the fact that supervisors exist and should be consulted by their personnel. This will continue until the Editor is informed by the CSTC that supervisors in DD/P no longer consider such support necessary; then, the line will be dropped.

The Director of Training desires it to be understood that should he, or other officers of OTR, be taxed with complaint by any sensitive supervisor within DD/P who resents the implied insult that he is incompetent, the supervisor will be assured that this line is printed in the Bulletin over the protest of the DTR and only at the express request of the CSTC.

GS 14's are the equivalent of Colonels in the military forces; absence without leave is a court martial offense. This situation, in regard to military or civilian men of that rank, is literally unheard of.

6. Paragraph e.

Point: The announcement that four individuals have been selected for full-time study in a certain language may "blow" an operation.

Counter-point: This news item appeared in the September issue of the Bulletin. While any item in any classified paper prepared in CIA theoretically may "blow" an operation, it was the considered judgement of the Chief, Plans and Policy Staff/OTR and of the Director of Training in personally approving this item for publication that it could not, except by the most extreme and involved approach in reasoning, be interpreted as so affecting an operation. The DTR believes Mr. Wisner and Mr. Helms would be inclined to agree with this view concerning the cited news item.

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Mr. Baird:

Please do not quote me in regard to these 2 observations, for I do not know [ ] source of information nor her motivation in regard to them, nor do I wish to betray her confidence if she considered her remarks in that category and failed to so stipulate to me.

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I consider the points of important to you, in view of the meeting this morning, and of other long-term factors.

During my interview with her, some days before she and [ ] met and went over the same ground leading to this morning's meeting, she observed:

1. A number of supervisors deliberately are not circulating the Bulletin to their personnel within DD/P. (I refrained from asking if the CSTC or Divisional Training Officers were acting to rectify this situation).
2. The first time a security flap occurs, just one, in respect to the Bulletin, it is through, finished, in DD/P; and did I realize that? (I made an appropriate remark concerning the seriousness of such an eventuality).

There have been 5 issues of the Bulletin since 15 May 1956. To date, the Director of Training has not directed that a circulation and readership survey be undertaken, on the basis that under the local-control distribution agreement such normal action is unnecessary. However, during these 5 months, a significant number of telephone calls have been received by the Plans and Policy Staff/OTR from individual Agency employees who state that they have heard of the Bulletin, need it, want it, have use for it personally or organizationally, but have never seen it, or simply glimpsed a copy in an office other than their own. The bulk of these calls are coming, each month, from DD/P personnel.

While the Director of Training naturally reserves the right to service these individuals, in terms of his responsibilities as set forth under [ ] he has directed the Editor of the Bulletin to refer such calls to the appropriate Training Officer, with the proviso that if the individual is not then served a second call to the Editor will bring expedient action. It has been our experience that second calls seldom occur; the DD/P Divisional Training Officers apparently act with commendable dispatch.

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However, under the distribution plan originated and administered by the Clandestine Services Training Committee with concurrence and cooperation by the Director of Training, this situation simply should not exist at all.

The Director of Training asks that the Clandestine Services Training Committee investigate the facts concerning their controlled-distribution system, and report the results of their survey at the next regularly scheduled meeting of CSTC/OTR representatives.